



Bonnie Reichert

EDLD 5362

Lamar University – Educational Technology Leadership

April 24, 2011

What Is Educational Networking?

- **"Educational Networking"** is the use of social networking technologies for educational purposes.

Educational Networking Wiki 2011

Educational networking uses Web 2.0 technology, such as blogs, wikis, online simulators, and interactive websites to facilitate communication and collaboration among large groups of educators in a 24/7 environment.

Educational Value of Web 2.0

- **Participation** with colleagues
- **Discussion** on 'in-time' topics
- **Engagement** with other tech facilitators
- **Creativity**
- **Authentic** information from current educators
- **Openness** and willingness to share information
- **Collaboration** with experts and colleagues 24/7
- **Pro-Active** collaboration on current topics and issues
- **Personalized Learning** to fit personal styles and needs.
- **Passionate Interest** and **Personal Expression** – Use of Interactive Portfolios to present and share information



Student Use of Web 2.0

How teachers use Web2.0 tools with students to sustain meaningful communication:

- Establishing a daily practice
- Consideration of the Audience
- Teaching and enforcing appropriate online behavior

(Light, 2011, p.11)

Use of Web 2.0 prompts a sense of connectedness:

- Students can present projects online
- Parents and community can view and assess progress
- Active participation in a learning community

Simulations of real life:

- Learn real-life topics with real data and images
- Demonstrate cause and effect
- Purposeful and goal oriented

(Groff & Haas, 2008)

Challenges to Using Web 2.0

As educators we are challenged to meet the learning needs of all students. The use of Web 2.0 technology offer countless ways to differentiate for our students. “In the future, *how we* educate our children may prove to be more important than *how much* we educate them” (Solomon & Schrum, 2007, p. 10).

Web 2.0 is changing the way we teach. So what are the challenges?

Challenge #1 – Gaining district support to use tools

Challenge #2 – Helping student learn and understand a learning community

Challenge #3 – Create and sustain activity to keep it authentic and student-centered

(Moorman, 2009)

Challenge #4 – Safe use of the social networking tools

The Web is no longer a one-way street where someone controls the content. Anyone can control content in Web 2.0 world.

(Solomon & Schrum, 2007, p.8)

CLASSROOM 2.0

Network Features

- Free, community-supported network
- Contribution by membership only
- Participate in forums
- Web 2.0 User Groups
- Webinars
- Live Virtual Conferences



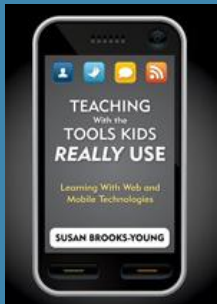
[Classroom 2.0](#)

Educators can use social network services to help students hone these skills (collaboration, work ethic, and critical thinking) as well as basic skills such as written communication.
(Brooks-Young, 2010, p. 52)

Using Classroom 2.0

Classroom 2.0 is an educational site that allows users to collaborate and contribute regarding issues on using social networking in the classroom. It also provides collaborative opportunities to interact with other teachers who are introducing and using Web 2.0 technology in their districts and classrooms.

My **personal interaction** is to find out more about using Web 2.0 tools in my classroom. I am participating in a forum on accessibility issues and how other districts are keeping compliant while also making sites available. I will also learning more about Web 2.0 by participating in the live conferences.





Introducing
a global
online
learning
community
where
educators
collaborate,
share
resources
and
showcase
accomplish
ments.

Project Share
Advertising
Poster



- Project Share is a Texas initiative dedicated to providing educators across Texas a collaborative educational network using a collection of Web 2.0 tools and applications.

Collaborative Resources:

- Global Learning Management
- Life-long ePortfolio
- Professional Development Courses
- Sharing of digital content
- Network Channel – similar interests
 - Teaching
 - Research
 - Career
 - Academics
- Future Student Component
 - ePortfolios
 - Digital Course Work
 - Collaboration

- [Project Share Tour](#)



Using Project Share

The next logical step would seem to be the creation of an all-in-one, online communication and collaboration system for schools that leverages the best of what Web 2.0 offers.

- I have been using the Project Share platform for 1 year. I have begun to develop communities within the network and participate in groups of learners on specific topics. One important aspect of the portal is the access to a personal ePortfolio <http://www.epsilen.com/breichert>.
- I am also using the network to collaborate on an action research project to determine the level of preparedness for the introduction of student ePortfolios. I will develop a group of educational professionals to help with the data gathering and processing which will lead to the development of a plan to launch the student ePortfolio component of Project Share.
- The next step I will be taking with Project Share is the development of online course work for staff and students.

What does it mean to education?

“Statewide networks are core elements of states’ education and telecommunication infrastructures. These networks significantly influence educational success and contribute to a state’s competitive status, development and general quality of life” (Mathews, 2004, p. 2).

Summary

Educational networks can:

- Provide up-to-date information about all aspects of educational practices.
- Allow collaboration and analyzing of educational methods and practices.
- Allow for communication and collaboration between peers
- Establish global communities of learners.
- Provide the ability to transmit information that is budget friendly.

For successful use of educational networks, educational technology leaders will need to define the roles and purposes of educational networking in schools in the future and make educational networking a priority (Mathews, 2004).

References

- Brooks-Young, S. (2010). *Teaching with the tools kids really use*. Thousand Oaks: Corwin.
- Groff, J., & Haas, J. (2008, September/October). Web 2.0 today's technologies, tomorrow's learning. *Learning & Leading with Technology* , pp. 12-15.
- Hargodon, S. (2009, December 16). *Educational networking: the important role web 2.0 will play in education*. Retrieved April 20, 2011, from Steve Hargadon:
<http://www.stevehargadon.com/2009/12/social-networking-in-education.html>
- Harman, J., & Carpenter, D. (2007, February). Breathing fire into web 2.0. *Learning & Leading with Technology* , pp. 18-21.
- Light, D. (2011, February). Do web 2.0 right. *Learning and Leading with Technology* , pp. 10-15.
- Mathews, J. (2004, April). *Why statewide educational networks are important to state and educational leaders*. Retrieved April 21, 2011, from Southern Regional Education Board:
http://publications.sreb.org/2004/04T02-Statewide_Ed_Tech_Net_Important.pdf
- Moorman, H. (2009). *Adventures in web 2.0: introducing social networking into my teaching*. Retrieved April 21, 2011, from ERIC : <http://www.eric.ed.gov/PDFS/EJ859271.pdf>
- Solomon, G., & Schrum, L. (2007). *Web 2.0 new tools, new schools*. Washington D.C.: International Society for Technology in Education.